

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-39 are currently pending in the application and all of these claims have been rejected.

In this response, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 21, 25, 29, 33, and 37 have been amended, and Claims 40 and 41 have been added as new claims. Support for Claims 40 and 41 may be found at least at, for example, Figure 6 and page 13, line 25 – page 14, line 10 of the original specification. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this response, Claims 1-41 would be pending.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over US 7,327,387 to Tanaka (“Tanaka”). Claims 13-19, 36, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over US 2004/0109062 to Yamaya (“Yamaya”) in view of Tanaka. Claims 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tanaka in view of Yamaya. Claims 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tanaka in view of Yamaya and further in view of US 7,304,667 to Watanabe et al. (“Watanabe”). Claims 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamaya in view of Tanaka and further in view of Watanabe.

The pending claims recite attribute information that is related to stored images. These claims have been amended to clarify that the attribute information is transmitted in two stages - part of the attribute information is acquired/transmitted when the apparatuses are connected, while the rest of the attribute information is acquired/transmitted thereafter.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, provides for an information acquisition method that comprises, in part:

acquiring, for each of the images, partial information instead of full information of the attribute information ... and

acquiring, for each of the images, information including the rest of the attribute information after acquiring the partial information of the attribute information.

Independent Claim 4, as amended, provides for an information acquisition method that comprises, in part:

generating, for each of the images, partial information of the attribute information ...;

transmitting the generated partial information instead of full information of the attribute information to the external device; and

transmitting, after transmitting the partial information, information including the rest of the attribute information for an image.

Independent Claim 7, as amended, provides for an information processing apparatus that comprises, in part:

said attribute information acquisition unit acquires for each of the images from the external device partial information instead of full information of the attribute information ... and

after acquiring the partial information, said attribute information acquisition unit acquires, for each of the images in the external device, information including the rest of the attribute information.

Independent Claim 10, as amended, provides for an image recording apparatus that comprises, in part:

... the attribute information generation unit generates, for each of the images, partial information of the attribute information, and the transmission unit transmits the generated partial information instead of full information to the external device, and

after transmitting the partial information, the transmission unit transmits information including the rest of the attribute information for each of the images.

Independent Claim 13, as amended, provides for an information processing method that comprises, in part:

the information processing apparatus creating for each of the image files, an object only containing information in a part instead of in full of the categories out of the plurality of pieces of attribute information ... and

the information processing apparatus adding to the created object for each of the image files information of the rest of the categories of the attribute information.

Tanaka discloses a digital camera and a communication device, but does not teach or suggest that the attribute information is acquired or transmitted in two separate stages. In Tanaka, two completely different kinds of data, a list and files, are transmitted in sequence. Tanaka does not disclose or even suggest separately transmitting the same kind of data in two stages. In addition, the communication device in Tanaka does not acquire partial information for each of the images stored in the external device and the camera does not transmit partial information for each of the images.

Thus, Tanaka does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of any of the pending claims, and none of the other cited references cures the deficiencies of Tanaka.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of the pending claims be withdrawn.

With regard to Yamaya, Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Yamaya does not teach an object that only contains information in part, instead of in full, of the categories of the plurality of pieces of attribute information. However, for at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the invention recited in the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection of claims, and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5352.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5352.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 10, 2008

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